



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html

MARCH 2, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*A copy of the federal indictment is available to download at the district's Web site at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/news2006/robinson_indictment.pdf*

JOHN ROBINSON INDICTED FOR KIDNAPING RESULTING IN DEATH

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that an Olathe, Kan., man was indicted by a federal grand jury for kidnaping resulting in the death of his victim.

John Edward Robinson, 62, of Olathe, was charged with kidnaping resulting in the death of Suzette Trouten in an indictment returned Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Robinson was convicted in Kansas state court for Trouten's murder and received the death penalty, Graves said, but the state statute used to convict **Robinson** was struck down by the Kansas Supreme Court in December 2004. Under federal statutes, **Robinson** could be subject to a sentence of life in federal prison without parole, or death. A formal decision has not yet been made whether to seek the death penalty.

"Federal agents were involved in the investigation of **Robinson**, particularly involving this victim who crossed states lines from Michigan into Missouri then into Kansas, so it is appropriate that the federal charge has been filed in this district," Graves said.

This indictment alleges that **Robinson** unlawfully inveigled and decoyed Trouten through false statements and deceit to transport her from the state of Michigan through the Western District of Missouri and elsewhere to the state of Kansas. **Robinson** committed this alleged kidnaping, the indictment says, for the purpose of holding Trouten for his sexual gratification by sadistic sexual abuse, resulting in her death.

Robinson passed himself off as a wealthy businessman who wanted to hire Trouten, a 27-year-old nurses aid, to look after his elderly father. Trouten moved to Kansas in February 2000, and her family filed a missing persons report with the Lenexa, Kan., Police Department soon afterward.

“I have been aggressive in seeking the death penalty when it is appropriate,” Graves said. “Justice demands the ultimate penalty for the ultimate crime, and in this district we are going to hold the worst criminals accountable for their violence.”

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys John E. Cowles and Jeff Valenti. It was investigated by the metro squad, which includes numerous metropolitan police departments, primarily the Lenexa, Kan., Police Department and the Overland Park, Kan., Police Department, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html